

LEGED SLAVERY IN HONGKONG.

STANT QUESTION STILL UNDECIDED.

PRITY VERDICT OF "NOT GUILTY."

in which a Chinese is charged with kidnapping two little girls, aged 12 years, was continued before Justice at the Hongkong Sessions yesterday. Mr. G. H. (Crown Solicitor) prosecuted C. G. Alabaster (instructed by d'Almeida) represented the

the chief points raised by the case was over a question of whether the Crown to produce evidence that these two children were the property of persons who had lawful custody of them, and he urged that as the children were kept in the Colony in slavery, the prosecution must fail.

and selling of boys and girls as servants is, of course, a Chinese custom, and referred to by the Chief Justice to a case issued by Captain Elliot which took possession of the children it was stated that the children would be given free exercise of all their religious rights, ceremonies and social customs.

WHAT IS SLAVERY?

What is slavery? asked the Chief Justice, and Mr. Alabaster replied: "I contend that a person who is bought by a master and may be sold by a master, who receives no wages, except clothes and food in exchange for work, is a slave. That is the meaning of slavery throughout our law, and slavery is not allowed to exist in this Colony."

The argument over this legal point arose when the case for the prosecution was concluded. Mr. Alabaster contended that he had no case in law to answer. The lawfulness of custody was essential to this particular charge.

The Chief Justice—If it is a question of law and not of fact, there is no need for the jury.

The jury were thereupon discharged until the legal point had been settled.

Mr. Alabaster, continuing, said the charge was brought under Section 15 of the Offences against the Person Ordinance, No. 2 of 1865, which stated that "every person who unlawfully, by fraud, threats or takes away or entices away any child under the age of 14 years with intent to deprive any parent, guardian or other person having lawful care or charge of such child, or possession of such child, shall be guilty." The lawfulness of the custody was an essential ingredient in the offence and it was properly placed in the indictment. The children were living in the Colony in a state of slavery. It was immaterial whether they were acquired under a system which permitted slavery or not. Having been brought into the Colony they were entitled to their freedom. But they were nevertheless less kept here as slaves by their mistress, who paid them no wages and claimed the right to sell them again if she desired. She kept them absolutely as slaves, for which purpose she said she bought them.

The Chief Justice—She did not say she bought them to sell.

Mr. Alabaster—She bought them to use them as servants.

A CHINESE CUSTOM.

The Chief Justice—That is a Chinese custom. Then his lordship propounded the question "What is slavery?" to which Mr. Alabaster's reply is given above.

Continuing Mr. Alabaster said slavery was not allowed to exist in this Colony. The very first Ordinance that was passed when the British took possession of this Colony and established a local Legislature was to make it clear that slavery in this Colony would not be tolerated. Mr. Norton Kysche, in his History of the Laws and Courts of Hongkong, stated:—

"On the 28th February, 1844, the local Ordinance No. 1 of 1844, relating to slavery, was passed. That slavery in its worst forms existed in the Colony was an undeniable fact, and it told much in favour of the authorities that the very first enactment passed by them related to such an important subject and had reference more to the Chinese than to any other nationality. This single Ordinance alone, it was hoped, would ultimately lead to desirable changes in the habits and customs of the Chinese. Not the least commendable part of the Ordinance was that which declared that the emancipated

slave who was unable to earn a livelihood was to be supported by the Colony until he was put in a way to support himself; in the case of females particularly, the propriety of this was obvious. But the Ordinance was subsequently disallowed by Her Majesty, as it was considered that the Imperial Statutes for the abolition of slavery extended by their own proper force and authority to Hongkong.

The Chief Justice said the argument was taking it for granted that the children were slaves. The Ordinance referred to the person having lawful care of the child. The evidence in this case was that the brother who apparently had lawful care of the child had sold the girl to this woman, in Hongkong. According to the customs prevailing here the children were bought as family servants and engaged as such. The question was whether the woman did not acquire lawful custody from the brother who was the lawful guardian in China.

NO SLAVERY UNDER THE BRITISH FLAG.

Mr. Alabaster—I do not care whether there is an Act in China permitting the brother to sell these girls. The sale may have been perfectly legal in China, but once the child came to this Colony she had the right to freedom and she cannot be kept here in a state of slavery. If she is so kept it is not lawful.

The Chief Justice—The child has no mother. Her mistress feeds her, clothes her and states that she will allow her to marry when she comes to a marriageable age.

Mr. Alabaster—We know that the Chinese get money by selling girls for marriage. At the present moment the child is a slave; whether some day the mistress intends to give her her freedom does not affect the matter.

The Chief Justice said he could not express any opinion at this stage of the case, but he drew Mr. Alabaster's attention to the fact that the Supreme Court usually took into consideration questions of Chinese custom. They had expressly held that Chinese customs were preserved under proclamation. His lordship referred to the Proclamation by Captain Elliott mentioned above and stated that in cases of bigamy they always took the question of custom into consideration. English law held so far as it did not conflict with the expressed power given under these Proclamations. If Mr. Alabaster was right, it was a matter full of the most serious consequences. It was a question that needed to be argued before the Full Court, and he was prepared to hear Mr. Alabaster at the Full Court on Saturday morning. They could go to the jury on the facts.

NO CASE IN LAW.

Mr. Alabaster submitted that there was no case in law, no evidence in law, to go to the jury.

The Chief Justice I shall hold that there is evidence. There is evidence of fact.

Mr. Alabaster said the question whether the law of the Colony permitted slavery was a very big question indeed, and he intimated his willingness to argue it before the Full Court and, if necessary, to carry it further.

The Chief Justice—Yes, it is a question of a serious character, because it means, if you succeed, that the Legislature will take immediate steps to amend the law.

Mr. Alabaster—Slavery is not allowed under the existing law and the Colony will never be allowed to amend the law on such a point.

The Chief Justice—We will take the verdict of the jury on the facts; you may succeed. If you do not get a verdict on the facts you can argue the law before the Full Court.

Mr. Alabaster—I want to know my position and the position which the Crown takes up. If the prisoner is found guilty on the facts and I succeed in the point of law, I hold that the prisoner will be entitled to his discharge. If the Crown does not prove in law the essential ingredient of the offence, I am entitled to demand from the jury a verdict of not guilty.

The Chief Justice considered that if the point in law which Mr. Alabaster raised was upheld, any conviction against the prisoner would be quashed. At the same time, he intimated that it must not be supposed that he acquiesced in any way in the argument put forward by the counsel for the defence.

This ended the legal argument and the Court adjourned for the tiffin interval.

The evidence in the case taken yesterday was as follows:

The mistress of the younger girl was recalled and, in answer to the Chief Justice, she stated that she clothed the girl and would permit her to get married when she reached a marriageable age.

By Mr. Alabaster—As her mistress, having bought the girl from her mother, can you sell her if you wish?—In my opinion I would not sell her. I would keep her and marry her when she gets old enough.

MISTRESS COULD SELL THE CHILD.

If you wish to sell her, you can sell her?—I could do so if I wished, but I would not do so. I keep her because I wish to use her as a servant.

The Crown Solicitor here suggested that expert evidence could be produced regarding Chinese customs if such were needed.

Mr. Alabaster—I am defending this case on the laws of the Colony. I don't want expert evidence on such laws. My friend is an expert.

The Chief Justice—If it comes to a question of the customs of the Chinese and the Court can always hear it.

The younger of the two girls alleged to have been kidnapped was then placed in the witness-box. In relating her experiences when with the prisoner she caused some amusement by stating that she had been for the first time in her life on a tram, but she was not very delighted with it. She said she was 10 years of age and lived on the ground floor in a house in Ship Street. She had not been living very long with her present mistress. She could not say how many months. She remembered the 20th of July, when she went out to buy cakes with an elder girl about noon. She did not buy anything, for she could not find the shop. She therefore started to return home, but lost her way. She was walking all the time with her companion and they met the prisoner. He did not ask her any question, but he said something to the elder girl. What it was she could not hear. The elder girl said, "Can you show me my way home?" and prisoner replied: "Yes, I will take you to your mistress." The prisoner, however, did not do this. He put her and her companion on board a steam launch.

They were taken on shore to a place she did not know. Then she was brought back across the harbour in the evening and landed on this side. She and her companion cried, but the prisoner told them not to cry and promised to buy them sweets, which he did. The prisoner was with them all the time except when he went to buy the sweets. Subsequently they met a Police Constable, who arrested the prisoner. At the Police Station she made her statement and was then taken back to her mistress's house.

INSTRUCTED WHAT TO SAY BY HER MISTRESS.

Cross-examined by Mr. Alabaster. She had no mother here. Her mother was in the country. Her father sold her, not her mother. She was fond of her father, of course, but as he was poor and had no money with which to buy food he was obliged to sell her. She did not wish to be with her parents now because she was given plenty of food in the place where she now was. She was fond of her companion and would follow her wherever she went and would be willing to do anything she wished her to do. She did not know her companion had a brother. On the day they went out to buy cakes, they each had ten cents given to them. She went with the other girl a very long way, to where there was the sea on one side of the road and grass upon the other. The prisoner took them on a tram and subsequently on a launch across the harbour and back again and then purchased them some sweets. The prisoner wished them to go to a wharf where there were some big ships.

Mr. Alabaster—Prisoner left you, did he not? He did not leave us, and I might say that the sweets he bought were not for us to eat in the street but were for us to take on the big steamer.

Mr. Alabaster—Has your mistress told you what evidence to give? She has taught me; oh, yes.

The Chief Justice suggested that a child of 10 years of age might not fully understand such a question.

Mr. Alabaster—Has your mistress told you what to say? My mistress told me to say this and to say that.

By the Chief Justice—The man was with them all the time except when he was away to buy sweets. They could see him when he was buying the sweets. It was not far away, and he did not go right inside the shop.

THE HUSBAND'S EVIDENCE.

The husband of the girl's mistress, who stated that he was a foreman contractor, living in Ship Street, also gave evidence. On July 20th, he said, when he reached home and his wife told him the servant girl was missing he started out to look for her. He went first to the Kowloon steamer wharf. This was about 6 p.m. He went to the wharf because he was afraid that the servant might be taken away from the Colony by steamer. He could not find the girl and returned home. Later he went to the Hongkong and Macao steamer wharf. He went on board many steamers, but his search was unsuccessful. Later, when near the wharf, he saw prisoner bringing the two girls along. Prisoner had the older girl by the hand, and the younger one was following. He asked a Police Constable to arrest the man.

Cross-examined by Mr. Alabaster—He knew the Wing On Co.'s store, and the wharf to which he had referred was opposite the store. He did not know, however, that the girls had been waiting alone for a quarter of an hour by the store.

By the Chief Justice—He could see the Wing On Store from where he was standing. He saw the prisoner coming from the east. He did not speak to the prisoner. He straightway asked a Police Constable to arrest him. He took the girls away. The girls did not say anything to him at first, but they answered the questions he put to them, and the policeman who had arrested the prisoner could hear what they said.

Mr. Alabaster—The prisoner was arrested not on the wharf but on the other side of the road?—No.

By the Chief Justice—Prisoner was arrested just outside the gate of the wharf.

"THAT MAN STEALS GIRLS."

Sgt. Dorling gave evidence of the arrest. His attention was called to the matter by a *lukong*. On the other side of the road to the wharf he saw that a crowd had collected. He went over to see what was the matter and the last witness, pointing to prisoner, said, "That man steal girls." The two girls were close at hand. He sent the prisoner to the Central Police Station, and the girls went too. The elder of the girls was carrying a small parcel containing cakes. He did not hear the prisoner speak to the girls.

An interpreter read the statement which the prisoner had made at the Central Police Station, the gist of which was that the girls had followed him against his will.

PRISONER PLEADS THAT THE GIRLS FOLLOWED HIM.

For the defence the prisoner gave evidence on his own behalf. He said he was a partner in the Yuen Wo Smelting Works, No. 15, Argyle Street. The papers round upon him when he was arrested included a plan of a smelting furnace and a draft prospectus of a proposed coal mining syndicate. On July 20th he went to Causeway Bay. He wanted to look for a site upon which to build a smelting works. He first went to the Wing Yip Company and saw Chang Chi Yung and spoke to him about a site. Continuing his investigations for a suitable locality he was near the Asiatic Company's premises when he overtook the two little girls in court. He passed them, but they called after him. They were crying very bitterly and said, "Have pity on us, our elder brother has brought us here and we have lost sight of him." He told them it was no use going further as there were no shops and advised them to go back. He took them to near the stables to get a tram. A number of children were playing there, and he advised them to remain with those children and perhaps their brother would come to look for them. He told them he was busy and that they must not follow him. He went to the Wing Yip Co. to report the result of his search for a site, left a message for Chang and then returned and entered a tram. He got into the first class compartment and the girls followed him. He told them again not to follow him, but they asked him to be kind and help them to find their brother, and as he thought they needed looking after he went into the third class section with them. He got off at the Central Market and they got off too. He advised them to wait there and afterwards he went to the Yau-mai Ferry. When taking a seat on the Ferry he noticed that the girls had followed him again. They told him that their brother had taken them across the harbour once and asked him to take them again in the hope of meeting their brother. They went across the harbour with him, and returned with him. He paid their fares on tram and ferry. They refused to leave him. He left them at the corner of Wing Koi Street, and went into a shop. He discussed smelting business with the master of the shop for about a quarter of an hour, but when he came out of the shop he saw the girls standing on the opposite side of the street about four houses away. He told them again they were not to follow him and said they were a nuisance. They had wasted so much of his time that he had lost the train which he had intended to catch to Canton, and he told them that he would now have to go by steamer. One of the girls asked that they might follow him to Canton in order to get to the wharf from which the boats started which went to their country. Shortly afterwards he was arrested. He was a family man, 33 years of age, and he had no idea of stealing these girls. He had learned smelting in Annam.

A DESIRE TO BE KIND.

Cross-examined by the Crown Solicitor—He knew it would have been the usual thing to report to the police that these children were following him about, but he was too busy.

The Chief Justice went over the prisoner's statement, a second time and commented severely upon some of the extraordinary admissions he had made. His lordship asked the prisoner whether he wished the jury to believe that these girls followed him about against his will when he paid their fares on the tram and on the ferry. His lordship also asked the prisoner whether he would have taken the girls to Canton, and when the prisoner replied in the affirmative, stating that he would have brought them back if the brother had not been found, his lordship stated that prisoner deserved to be brought to a court of justice whether he was innocent of this particular charge or not. Prisoner attributed his acts to a desire to be kind.

Mr. Alabaster, addressing the jury, said the charge against the prisoner was that he unlawfully and feloniously did by fraud lead these children away with the intention of depriving the two mistresses of their possession. The fraud which the Crown alleged had to be proved beyond all shadow of reasonable doubt. For any evidence of that alleged fraud they had to look to the stories of the two little girls, both of whom were obviously coached and one of whom admitted that she was coached upon what to say. Therefore, he asked the jury to reject their evidence. Even upon the children's own story it was perfectly clear that the prisoner had left them alone for a considerable period at the corner of Wing On Street.

The Chief Justice summed up and the jury retired to consider their verdict. They were absent for about twenty minutes. Upon their return the foreman stated that they were not agreed. There was a majority of five to two in favour of a verdict of "Not Guilty."

The prisoner was consequently discharged.

As the jury returned a verdict of "Not Guilty" on the facts of the case, the point of law which Mr. Alabaster raised will not, of course, now come under consideration.

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NEW ADVERTISEMENTS

NOTICE.

WE HAVE This Day REMOVED our Office from 3rd Floor, Hotel Manouss, to 4th Floor, YORK BUILDING, Chester Road, S. C. ISMAIL & Co. Hongkong, 24th August, 1917. [867]

WANTED.

A complete set of the ENCYCLOPAEDIA BRITANNICA. Reply stating price, what edition and condition. Box 20, Care of "Daily Press" Office. [861]

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LOCAL Shipping Firm requires an ENERGETIC YOUNG EUROPEAN with previous experience. Knowledge of Typing and shorthand preferred. Apply to— Box 15, Care of "Daily Press" Office. [848]

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PUBLIC AUCTION.

THE Undersigned has received instructions from the Liquidator of Messrs. WATSON & CO., in pursuance of an order of the Hongkong Government, to sell by Public Auction at 12 o'clock (N.O.) on MONDAY, the 27th day of August, 1917, at his Sales Rooms, Duddell Street, Hongkong, All the pieces of ground situate at Yauwatt, Kowloon, in the Colony of Hongkong, and registered in the Land Office as KOWLOON (INLAND) LOT No. 203.

IN ONE LOT.

The property consists of a piece of ground abutting on Battery Street and Fourth Street (near the Praya) in Kowloon and contains an area of 4,000 square feet.

The Lot is held for the unexpired residue of a term of 7 years created therein by an Indenture of Crown Lease dated the 4th day of May, 1888.

The Annual Crown Rent is \$80. For further particulars and conditions of sale apply to

Messrs. HASTINGS & HASTINGS, Solicitors for the Liquidator, or to the Undersigned, GEO. P. LAMBERT. [882]

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IMMEDIATE entry. Four very desirable SHOPS, situated in Ice House Street, opposite the Grand Hotel, recently reconstructed.

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TO LET.

NO. 26, BELLION TERRACE. LARGE ROOM suitable for Office in Queen's Building (corner of Connaught Road and Ice House Street). ONE GROUND in Duddell Street. Apply to— LINSTED & DAVIS, 3rd Floor, Alexandra Buildings. 30

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PUBLIC COMPANIES

HONGKONG HOTEL COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE.

THE ORDINARY HALF-YEARLY MEETING of SHAREHOLDERS will be held at the Company's Hotel on SATURDAY 1st September, 1917, at 12.15 P.M., for the purpose of receiving a Statement of Accounts of the Company to 30th June, 1917, with the Report of the Directors, and to discuss any matter that may be competently brought before the Meeting. The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED on 25th August, 1917, to 1st September, 1917, both days inclusive. By Order of the Board, J. H. TAGGART, Manager and Secretary. Hongkong, 20th August, 1917. [866]

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Certificate No. 3482 dated Hongkong 18th February, 1900, for 50 Shares numbered 54219 to 54243, 10203 to 10207, 52840 to 52849, 4188 to 4190 and 55811 to 55816 and Provisional Certificate No. 43371 dated Hongkong, 5th July, 1907, for 25 Shares numbered 38506 to 38530, all Registered in the name of Sir CARL MARX, Bart., have been LOST or STOLEN, and should this Certificate and this Provisional Certificate not be produced to the Bank before the 2nd September, 1917, new Certificates for the Shares will be issued and the aforesaid Certificate No. 3482 and Provisional Certificate No. 43371 will thereafter be treated by this Corporation as Null and Void. By Order of the Court of Directors, N. J. STARR, Chief Manager. Hongkong, 1st August, 1917. [801]

NATIONAL BANK OF CHINA, LIMITED (IN LIQUIDATION).

(INCORPORATED IN ENGLAND).

Unredeemed Bank Notes.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that any OUTSTANDING NOTES will be paid on presentation to the undersigned, on or before SATURDAY, 29th September, 1917, at Noon.

AFTER THAT DATE, holders will find it necessary to claim repayment in STERLING from the BOARD OF TRADE, LONDON, to whom the necessary funds will be remitted. THE BOARD OF TRADE make a charge for payment of claims out of monies deposited in the "COMPANIES LIQUIDATION ACCOUNT" at the Bank of England.

A. R. LOWE, Liquidator. Chartered Bank Building, Hongkong, 16th August, 1917. [856]

G. R. NOTICE.

ANY EUROPEAN, Non-Asiatic or Indian desiring to leave the Colony should apply in person at the CENTRAL POLICE STATION between the hours of 9 A.M. to 1 P.M. and 2 P.M. to 4 P.M. daily. Applicants will be required to produce Passports or identification papers. All persons with certain exceptions who remain in the Colony for more than 7 days are required to Register themselves under the REGISTRATION or PERSONS ORDINANCE 1915. Forms of Registration giving the particulars required may be obtained at the G.P.O. and at all Police Stations. The Penalty for non-compliance is a fine not exceeding \$50. [88]

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AUCTION

For Sale by Public Auction.

Subject to the conditions prescribed by the Straits Settlements "Alien Enemies (Winding-up) Ordinance, 1915," as amended from time to time by Ordinances 1 of 1916, 11 of 1916, 17 of 1916 and 1 of 1917 and as adopted in this State.

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The sale is subject to the following conditions:—

- (1) \$30,000 (Singapore Currency) to be paid on purchase and the balance by monthly instalments thereafter of \$10,000. Interest at the rate of 7% per annum will be charged on instalments overdue and default for 30 days will invalidate the sale and render the deposit and all instalments liable to forfeiture.
- (2) On payment of the deposit an agreement will be executed by the liquidator undertaking to complete the transfer of the estate, free of all incumbrances, on payment of the final instalment of the purchase money.

And to the following special conditions:—

- (1) The purchaser must be a British subject and not under any foreign influence; he will be required to satisfy the Governor that no person of enemy or foreign origin is directly or indirectly interested with him in the purchase, and he must make such statutory declaration in that behalf as may be required by the Governor.
- (2) For the purposes of this sale any person entitled under the Land Laws of North Borneo to rank as a Native shall be deemed to be a British subject.
- (3) In the case of a Company formed for the purpose of acquiring the business its Memorandum of Association must contain special provisions, to be approved by the Governor, to exclude the possibility of the Company falling under foreign control. Generally speaking it will be necessary to prevent more than one-fourth of the shares or the voting rights being held by, or subject to the control of, foreigners.
- (4) In the case of a Company already in existence, if the Articles of Association do not already so provide, they must be altered in a manner satisfactory to the Governor so as to exclude the possibility of the Company falling under foreign control, and the Directors must furnish an undertaking to use their best endeavours to have the provisions referred to above inserted in the Memorandum of Association if legislation should be introduced enabling the Memorandum of Association to be altered by the insertion of such provisions.
- (5) Should the Governor for any reason not approve of the purchaser, the contract may be rescinded by the Governor and the deposit will be returned without interest or expenses.

Further particulars may be obtained on application to the undersigned.

W. W. SMITH, Liquidator.

RESIDENT'S OFFICE, SANDAKAN, NORTH BORNEO, 29th June, 1917. [813]

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

TO-MORROW. 9.15 p.m.—Frawley Coy. at the Theatre Royal—"Fair and Warmer."

Monday, 27th Aug.— Noon—Auction of Valuable Leasehold Property from the Liquidator of Messrs. White & Co., at Sales Rooms, by Mr. Geo. P. Lamport.

Saturday, 1st Sept.— Noon—Union Assurance Society of Canton, Ltd., Extraordinary General Meeting, 12.15 p.m.—Hongkong Hotel Co., Ltd., Meeting of Shareholders.

INTIMATION

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HONGKONG OFFICE: 10A, DES VOUX ROAD, C. LONDON OFFICE: 181, FLEET STREET, E.C.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, 24th AUGUST, 1917.

THE MILITARY SERVICE BILL

THE meeting of the Legislative Council that was to have been held this afternoon for the purpose of passing the Military Service Bill through its remaining stages has been postponed *sine die*. The announcement, we are sure, will be received with satisfaction by all except that infinitesimal section of the community which would have us believe that its patriotism is of such an exalted order that it delights in unnecessary sacrifice. If the Government is wise it will avail itself of the opportunity which the postponement affords to amend the Bill in the light of the criticism which has been levelled against it. As an emergency measure, rendered necessary by the war, it will be acceptable when the age for exemption has been lowered, provision has been made for classifying the fit and the unfit, the proposed regulations relating to training have been rendered less elastic, and, above all, the application of the Army Act has been clearly defined. The chief objection, however, to the Bill, as it stands, is its permanent character, imposing, for all time, a military régime upon males of British race in this Colony between eighteen and fifty-five years of age. It is no answer to this objection that the Governor has expressed his willingness to reconsider the measure six months after the war, because the case appears to be prejudged by His Excellency's refusal to accept an amendment limiting the operation of the Bill to the duration of the war and six months afterwards, and by the remarks which accompanied that refusal. If we are ultimately to follow the example of the rest of the Empire why should we not start now, instead of committing ourselves to a policy for which there is no precedent? We hope that the unofficial members of the Legislative Council will press the amendment to a

division, so that, in the event of a question being asked subsequently in the House of Commons, the Secretary of State for the Colonies may not be able to reply that the measure was passed by general consent on the understanding that it would be subject to revision when peace was restored. It would seem reasonable to infer, from the modest attitude adopted by the local Government when it was invited to endorse the opinions of the Chamber of Commerce in regard to the suppression of Enemy Trade Marks and the exclusion of Germans after the war, that an assurance has been received from the Imperial Authorities that the idea of compulsory military service in Hongkong meets with their approval. Yet, after pointing out the duty of the nation in this time of crisis, the Prime Minister declared recently at Dundee that we are "entitled to ask from the Government at least three things—that its commands and restrictions and limitations shall have a genuine war purpose; that they shall not be imposed merely for ulterior purposes associated with some theory or conception of the way in which the world ought to be run under normal conditions; and that the measures must be war measures." "And," added the Premier, "in war measures I include demobilisation after the war, because I consider that an essential part of the war purpose." Similar views were expressed, with much greater emphasis, at about the same time by Lord HARCOURT, who was Secretary of State for the Colonies until a year or two ago. After ridiculing the idea that a republican form of government was necessary for the United Kingdom, he said there was, however, a revolution which might be necessary—a revolution to secure the immediate resumption and re-establishment in peace of personal freedom. When the war was over we wanted, without a moment's delay, recovery of our personal freedom. We accepted to-day the appointments of lords of controllers and directors, who sometimes controlled and at other times misdirected. Our rulers should realise that our present method of government would not be tolerated for a single day after the attainment of peace. England to-day was governed by *ultra* as drastic as any issued by the Tsars of Russia. That was all very necessary. "But," continued his lordship, "I warn you against the possibility that individuals or groups of parties might desire to retain some of those powers in times of peace. Then, indeed, we should and must revolt."

Your first and last effort and fight when peace comes must be for the re-establishment of Parliamentary control. For that policy after peace I will carry the flag with you, not against the Crown—which has never coerced you or me, and never in our days has had the power to do so—but against the personal autocracy and assumption of power by jacks-in-office, who derive their authority not from their capacity but from the Orders-in-Council which are the source of their creation."

The Hon. Treasurer of the Alice Memorial and Affiliated Hospitals begs to acknowledge with thanks the following donations to the funds of the hospitals:—Mr. Tong Lai Chun, \$100; Mr. Ip Wing Cho, \$100; Mr. Fu Yik Pang, \$25.

At a Whist-drive held in the Dockyard on Wednesday evening, under the auspices of the Royal Naval Yard Police Mess, prizes were won as follows:—Ladies: 1st, Mrs. Marriott; 2nd, Mrs. Cousins; 3rd, Mrs. Young. Men: 1st, Mr. Hutchinson; 2nd, Mr. Bacon; 3rd, Mr. Cook. Mr. A. B. Allan was M.C.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

ADJOURNED SINE DIE.

The meeting of the Legislative Council, summoned for to-day, has been adjourned *sine die*.

CHINESE TELEGRAM.

[BY COURTESY OF THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."] ATTEMPT TO BOMB THE PREMIER'S RESIDENCE. SHANGHAI, August 23rd.

A rioter who attempted to attack Tuan Chi-jui's residence with a bomb has been arrested.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE MILITARY SERVICE BILL

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "HONGKONG DAILY PRESS."]

SIR,—When those dear Huns return to the Colony after the War shall we not look rather foolish if they ask us why we fought them? Perhaps the Government here will tell us what we and our gallant Allies are fighting for.

I have always understood that we were endeavouring to destroy German Militarism, but, on reading the proposed Bill, now about to undergo its second and third reading and receive its place on the Statute Book, that cannot be, for the Bill clearly adopts that which is akin to German Militarism.

Will one of our Unofficial Members please try and get the Bill amended so as to make it look British?

Those words "for the period of the War," which His Excellency says he cannot accept, must go in, when there should be no further opposition to the Bill as it stands.—Yours faithfully, BRITISHER.

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "HONGKONG DAILY PRESS."]

SIR, I should like to assure Mr. Davidson that the leader writer in the *Morning Post* was not more wrong when he wrote "This Bill is only a war measure" than when he said "with this promise the loyal Volunteers are satisfied." Preserve us from Germanism!—Yours truly, S. L. H.

PAUSE AND REFLECT.

Pause and reflect are freedom ends, ere yet the thing be done. Ere yet we lose our liberties, the rights our fathers won— The right to come, the right to go, unhindered and unchecked, The freedom of our Press—shall all unthinkingly be wrecked?

The right to public meeting and to freedom of debate— Pause and reflect ere these be gone, ere yet it be too late. For all have sprung from freedom's tree, and swiftly may decay Since freedom cannot live beneath a military sway.

If leaders lack, if courage fails, if none know what to do, 'Tis easy for a measure harsh to pass unheeded through. In time of war we evil not, nor seek to cause delay. But shall they fetter years of peace and no one say them nay?

Then voice at once a protest firm before this Bill be o'er, That it shall not apply in peace but only during war— That if this war shall end for good the Hohenzollern breed We will not live, when it be done, by Hohenzollern creed. ANON.

QUEEN MARY'S NEEDLEWORK GUILD.

HONGKONG BRANCH.

The following letters have been received by the United Service Recreation Club work party in acknowledgment of gifts received:—

27th General Hospital, Abbassieh, June 30th, 1917.

DEAR MADAM,—The case of bandages, swabs and stamp bandages packed and sent by you in March arrived safely and in good condition.

It was a most acceptable selection, especially the round and square swabs, which are absolutely invaluable. Any more consignments will be most gratefully received, especially swabs and muslin bandages. The Flannelette ones are rather too warm for this climate. Thanking you again—Yours truly, (Signed) DOROTHY G. WYNN (For Matron).

British Red Cross and Order of St. John, Nasrich Military Hospital, 23rd June, 1917.

DEAR MRS. BECKWITH,—Ever so many thanks for the large case of bandages which you so kindly sent me. They arrived at a time when we were very busy indeed admitting a number of badly wounded officers and men, and were therefore most acceptable.

I ought to have acknowledged the case sooner, but at that time the stress of work was so great that I am afraid my letters were neglected. Again very many thanks.—Yours truly, (Signed) G. HUGHES (Matron).

Walking through the village street one day, the widowed Lady Bountiful met old Farmer Stubbs on his way to market. Her greeting went unnoticed. "Stubbs!" said she, indignantly. "You might at least raise your hat to me!" "I beg your pardon, m'lady," was the reply, "but my poor wife ain't dead more'n two weeks, and I ain't started lookin' at the wimmen yet!"

THE WAR.

GERMAN AIR-RAID ON ENGLAND. TWO ENEMY MACHINES BROUGHT DOWN.

FEROCIOUS BATTLE AROUND LENS. ENEMY MUST RETAKE POSITION OR QUIT CITY.

GERMANS COMMIT INEXCUSABLE CRIME.

ITALIANS REPULSE AUSTRIANS IN DISORDER.

FRANCO-BELGIAN FRONT

LATEST CABLES.

(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

BRITISH FRONT.

BITTER FIGHTING

LONDON, August 23rd.

Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports:—We were successful in our operations this morning eastward and north-eastward of Ypres for the capture of the series of strong points at fortified farms astride the Ypres-Menin Road, and between the Ypres-Roulers railway and Langemarck.

There was bitter fighting at all points. The enemy repeatedly counter-attacked, and our artillery and machine-gun fire inflicted heavy losses.

The struggle was most fierce on the high ground in the neighbourhood of the Ypres-Menin road, where we advanced to a depth of 500 yards on a mile front.

We captured an important observation position, also the western portion of Inverness Copse. Our line further north was advanced to a maximum depth of over half-a-mile on a front of two-and-a-half miles. The enemy resisted most stubbornly.

TOTAL PRISONERS CAPTURED.

LONDON, August 23rd.

We captured 250 prisoners. Owing to the obstinate nature of the fighting these are unusually small in proportion to the enemy's total losses. We captured 194 yesterday at Lens, making 1,378 since the 15th inst., and in addition 34 machine-guns and 21 trench-mortars.

There was fierce air-fighting. We brought down twelve and drove down five enemy aeroplanes. Twelve of ours are missing.

EARLIER CABLES.

ADDITIONAL GROUND GAINED.

LONDON, August 22nd.

Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports:—We maintained the position we captured yesterday morning on the outskirts of Lens.

We made further progress at certain points and secured additional ground north-westward and northward of Lens, as the result of heavy fighting, in which we repulsed strong counter-attacks.

There is great artillery activity eastward and north-eastward of Ypres.

LATEST CABLES.

GERMAN REPORT.

LONDON, August 23rd.

A wireless German official report states:—British attacks eastward of Ypres on a 15 kilometre front failed with heavy losses.

GERMAN ADMISSIONS.

LONDON, August 22nd.

A German communiqué states:—Artillery fire on the coast and from Dixschote to Warneton was again intense.

Fresh fighting is developing at Lens. The French gained ground at Avocour, Wood and Samogneux.

ENEMY MUST QUIT LENS.

LONDON, August 22nd.

Reuter's Correspondent at British Headquarters this afternoon says there was a ferocious battle the whole of yesterday around Lens.

The latest news is that the Canadians are holding their gains on the western fringe of the city, but north of the railway the situation is not clear owing to the sway of the great fight. It is increasingly clear that the enemy yesterday had organised a big attack, possibly with the idea of retaking Hill 70. Its synchronisation with the renewed Canadian offensive upset his whole plans, but the enemy is putting up a formidable fight with fresh troops and the heaviest of artillery fire yet experienced.

At Lens the First Prussian Guards Reserve Division is the latest to be thrown in to try and retrieve the situation. Between two and three o'clock yesterday afternoon the battle was simply boiling. The Germans launched two counter-attacks north of the railway, and streams of men emerged from cellars and the heart of ruined mounds where houses once stood. When the last of these had been fought to a finish, the Canadians at one place counted over 100 Prussian corpses on a hundred yards of front. It is mainly a soldiers' battle, and methods of frightfulness are impossible owing to endangering one's own people equally with the adversary. Few prisoners were taken last evening. It appears that the Bocho barrage started five minutes before ours yesterday morning, but luckily our infantry had been formed for the attack. The German trenches were packed, and our artillery inflicted heavy slaughter.

It looks as if the Germans realise they must retake Hill 70 or quit Lens. What further price they are prepared to pay for this effort remains to be seen.

MAGNIFICENT VALOUR OF IRISH TROOPS.

Correspondents unfold stirring details of the Irish troops attacking on the right flank on August 18th, when the left flank captured Langemarck. The Southern Irish again fought at the side of the Ulstermen, but, unlike their achievement at Wytschate, their luck failed. The Dublin Fusiliers, Irish Rifles and Inniskillings advanced parallel with the Roulers Railway into a tremendous barrage against a system of concrete blockhouses. Enemy outposts were driven in, after which a fierce enfilade of machine-gun fire swept over the advancing Irishmen. The Irish Rifles reached the railway level crossing, taking thirty-two prisoners.

The Dublins were held up at Bremen Redoubt, but their valour and tenacity transpired in a message from a subaltern which said:—"I am lying out here in a shell hole. All the officers and men are killed or wounded."

On the left, the Inniskillings crossed the Zonnebeke River and progressed rapidly. They captured two redoubts and seized Hill 37, one of the keys to the position. The Ulstermen opposed a series of concrete forts and advanced over bogs. They captured gun pits and Hill 35, but were unable to hold either. Afterwards heavy counter-attacks drove back the foremost units of both flanks in a series of the most bloody rearguard fights.

The success of the day was not achieved owing to the centre being held up by a redoubt containing five machine guns which held out throughout, despite the fact that the Irish Rifles twice followed the Inniskillings and assaulted the redoubt like tigers, also owing to the supporting troops being held up and caught by machine-gun cross-fire.

Throughout the worst hours an Irish padre, in the thickest of the fight, was giving Absolution to the dying. Four successive men were killed while he was kneeling beside them. A subsequent shell killed the padre.

THE OFFENSIVE RENEWED.

Reuter's Correspondent at British Headquarters, telegraphing this evening, says:—At 4.30 this morning we resumed the offensive against German positions along part of the ridge system forming the present battle-front in Flanders. Very heavy fighting occurred and continues with varying results. The new "liquid" defences of the enemy, consisting of numerous disconnected and often almost invisible posts, organised in depth, present a formidable problem to the attacking infantry. Indeed, we are now up against much the same species of fighting as during some of the Somme battles. The enemy is desperately resisting our advance against what he realises to be a vital and strategic key to the tenure of Northern Belgium. Nevertheless, we advanced and carried the line to the left of the attack forward and straightened the pretty little thrusts which the Tanks made on Sunday. The Tanks were again active to-day and served excellently. On the right of the attack the situation is rather obscure, as the Germans have taken advantage of every little farm building, every little knoll and every hedge in order to develop isolated points of resistance.

The hottest of the fighting took place in the vicinity of Inverness Copse, which is the most strongly fortified spot in that region. The Boches had run out a perfect new network of wire between the trees and studded the place with machine-guns. They had filled it with concrete pill-box blockhouses and burrowed it into a labyrinth of dugouts and short trenches.

The battle is being fought by English and Scottish troops, who are finely maintaining the fame of the old British line.

FRENCH FRONT.

ENEMY GAS RESERVOIRS DESTROYED.

PARIS, August 23rd.

A communiqué states:—The artillery duel was somewhat violent in the regions of Bray and Cerny.

Our batteries in Champagne carried out an effective fire and destroyed more enemy gas reservoirs.

On the Verdun front the enemy reacted in the course of the day with artillery, especially on the left of the Meuse.

The enemy did not attempt to attack our new positions. Six enemy aeroplanes were destroyed in air fights, and five others fell damaged.

POSITIONS MAINTAINED.

A communiqué states:—The enemy at night time violently bombarded different points of our first-line on the Aisne.

The Germans made several strong attacks in the region of Mennejean farm, east of Bray, south of Leboville, between Ailles and the Hurtelise Monument and the California Plateau.

We entirely maintained our positions everywhere and took prisoners.

We repulsed a violent counter-attack last evening between Hill 304 and Mort-homme.

A brilliant counter-offensive drove out the enemy from elements in which he had gained a footing on our new front line.

We captured 80 prisoners. Our reconnoiters rushed on as far as the edge of Forges village.

PRISONERS AND BOOTY.

The enemy made several attempts to drive us back from the positions we won on the right bank of the Meuse, notably one of Mormant Farm and Hill 344. A fire broke up, with great losses, the attacking waves, which nowhere reached our lines.

Backs with liquid-fire north of the Calvres Wood merely increased the enemy's losses.

So the 20th inst., we have captured 611 unwounded prisoners, including 154 officers (not including the prisoners taken yesterday), also 600 wounded prisoners. We also captured important booty, especially in three tunnels at Morthomme, where the dressing-stations with their electrical apparatus were found intact. We captured here a whole regimental staff, corps commander, and an officer of Engineers.

SPENDID TWO-MILE CHARGE.

LONDON, August 22nd.

Reuter's Correspondent at French Headquarters, in filling in particulars of the offense at Verdun, says the enemy had fresh reserve divisions and over 2,000 guns. He poured out poison gas for days before attack, but our troops wore gas masks the whole time.

The captures of Talon Hill and Hill 344, respectively 1,080 and 1,300 feet, were the outcome of a spendid two-mile charge made by gas-masked infantry from the northern slope of Pepper Hill. The bombardment had driven out the enemy from his defences on the crest-line, and they fled the valley between with gas, but ineffectually.

EARLIER CABLES.

BELLIANT FRENCH ATTACK.

PARIS, August 22nd.

A communiqué states:—There was somewhat great reciprocal artillery activity in the region of the Vaux Aillon Plateau, Cerny, and Craonne.

Detonative fire in Champagne against the German organisation in the St. Hilaire sector caused an explosion of the gas reservoirs. Shortly afterwards scouting parties found the enemy trenches evacuated and full of corpses.

On the Verdun front the battle continued at several points, and everywhere to our advantage.

On the left of the Meuse we captured and briefly occupy Goose Hill and Regneville village.

On the right bank we brilliantly conducted an attack and conquered Samogneux, also the entire system of fortified trenches connecting the village with the organisation.

At Hill 344 we repulsed counter-attacks and have taken more prisoners, which have not yet been counted.

HOSPITALS BOMBED AND MEDICAL MEN KILLED.

PARIS, August 22nd.

Murdered by the defeats at Verdun, the Germans have committed a fresh and inexcusable crime.

German aeroplanes last night set fire, by means of incendiary bombs, to three French hospitals full of wounded, and turned their machine guns on the medical men rescuing the wounded from the blazing buildings.

The victims include seven medical men killed and 20 injured, and seven wounded men killed and 12 injured.

The wounded men were killed in their beds.

A Red Cross nurse and a male nurse were killed at the bedsides of the wounded soldiers.

There was no panic. The wounded able to walk assisted in rescuing their comrades, while the entire staff endeavoured to extinguish the flames.

Although Red Crosses on the roofs of the buildings were quite plain in the glare of the conflagration, the Germans returned a third time and bombarded the buildings.

FRENCH GUN SUPERIORITY.

LONDON, August 22nd.

A French semi-official account of the battle of Verdun shows that the enemy meant to resist to the utmost. They had five Divisions in reserve, while four hundred batteries deluged the French batteries and first lines with tear shells and gas shells, but the French opening bombardment on Friday was most violent, overpowering the enemy's artillery.

The monster French 370-millimetre guns annihilated the enemy's village fortresses, while their 400-millimetre mortars pounded the immense citadel of Morthomme.

The effectiveness of the French bombardment was evidenced even before the attack by the surrender of a number of Germans, including a whole platoon.

The Near East.

LATEST CABLES.

(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

ARABS DEFEAT TURKS.

LONDON, August 22nd.

A Mesopotamia official report states:—We captured Shahraban, on the left bank of the Didlah, and forced the enemy to retreat to the Hamrin Hills.

The War Office announces that Arabs carried out extensive operations and destroyed a part of the railway northward of Medina. They captured Turkish posts, and on more than one occasion overcame superior forces. They killed 700 and captured 700 prisoners in the Maan District alone, capturing four guns.

It is evident that the King of Hedjaz is definitely associated with the Allied aims, which is bound to embarrass our enemies.

The Arab movement is apparently gaining support and is spreading eastward.

Russian Front.

LATEST CABLES.

(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

RUSSIAN FRONT.

GERMAN OFFENSIVE.

LONDON, August 23rd.

A wireless Russian official report states:—The Germans took the offensive at Inkkum and drove back our cavalry advance posts.

There was a vigorous German artillery fire in the Dvinsk and Brody regions.

The enemy attacked south-westward of the town of Sereth, and occupied a fortified height.

Fighting continues in the direction of Okna with varying success.

EARLIER CABLES.

FIERCE ENEMY ATTACKS.

LONDON, August 22nd.

A wireless Russian report states:—We repulsed several enemy attacks on the Bistritza River, south-eastward of Kratche.

The enemy slightly advanced in the direction of Okna.

Fighting at Staklerie Factory continued all day with varying success.

After fierce attacks the enemy occupied a small section of trenches in the region of Soveia.

The Roumanians, after counter-attacking, reoccupied trenches eastward of the Focsani-Jud railway and beat off attacks to the westward.

Naval Activities.

EARLIER CABLES.

(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

SUBMARINE SINKS FRENCH SAILING VESSEL.

PARIS, August 22nd.

The French sailing vessel *Cambroune*, from Brazil, sailing to France, was bombarded and sunk by a submarine on July 28th, 120 miles from the French coast.

The captain and twenty-one of the crew, three of whom were wounded, escaped in a whaleboat and reached land after a prolonged struggle in a heavy sea.

Italian Front

LATEST CABLES.

(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

ITALIAN SUCCESSES.

LONDON, August 22nd.

An Italian official report states:—The battle is raging on the whole front. We are overcoming the resistance northward of Gorizia and gaining new successes along the whole line of battle.

Our prisoners have now reached 13,311. We captured 30 guns and a great quantity of booty.

Our aeroplanes hold the mastery of the air. They bombarded enemy troops and caused conflagrations in the communications everywhere.

We repulsed attacks in the Trentino, and Carnia. The enemy's bigger attack in the Ledro Valley failed after a lively struggle.

AUSTRIAN COUNTER-ATTACK REPULSED IN DISORDER.

LONDON, August 23rd.

Correspondents state that the Austrian counter-attack on the Carso front with 130 Battalions was repulsed in disorder. The enemy centre on the Carso is broken, menacing the whole left flank.

A deserter revealed the whereabouts of a cavern holding a detachment, which was wiped out. Numerous machine-guns were captured.

Several caverns at Monte Santo and San Marco fell in, wiping out whole battalions. It is stated that a million Austrians are operating against the Italians.

AUSTRIAN REPORT.

LONDON, August 23rd.

A wireless Austrian official report states:—Eastward of Canale we abandoned a village.

Enemy attacks southward of Descla and eastward of Gorizia and Biglia failed.

There was a severe struggle on the Carso front. We undertook minor defensive retirements.

The Italians again attacked this morning.

EARLIER CABLES.

TRIESTE BOMBARDED.

ROME, August 22nd.

British and Italian monitors, co-operating with the Army, effectively bombarded the enemy positions on the Lower Isonzo.

Simultaneously Italian monitors bombarded the dockyards at Trieste.

Subsequently they were unsuccessfully attacked by hostile aircraft, which they brought down.

ITALIAN ARTILLERY COM- PARABLE WITH BRITISH.

LONDON, August 22nd.

Mr. Percival Gibbon, telegraphing from the Italian Front to the *Daily Chronicle*, states that General Cadorna's massed artillery is comparable with the British guns on the Somme.

The Italian Grenadiers participated in the furious fighting, and they have been in and out of the triple line of defences on the Carso front several times, where the result is still in abeyance.

DIRIGIBLES COOPERATING WITH ARMY.

A Correspondent of the *Giornale d'Italia* states that dirigibles are co-operating impressively in the new offensive. During a bombardment in the region of Tolmino a dirigible bombed the quarters of the Austrian command.

A series of formidable lines in the central sector on the Carso front and a section on the slopes of the Hermada have been captured.

AUSTRIAN REPORT.

An Austrian communiqué states:—On the 23rd inst., south of Auza, the enemy slightly drove in our front. After the attack our troops maintained the positions until they were completely surrounded. Then they cut their way out between Dersela and Wiffach.

An enemy attack on the Carso front failed at the cost of thousands and they captured the ruined Selo village.

In two days' fighting we captured 5,000 prisoners and 50 machine-guns.

(Continued on Page 6.)

WAR SAVINGS.

In the good old days when your great grandpapa was stopped on the high-road and two horse-pistols were levelled at his head, the demand was:—

Your Money or Your Life.

To-day, when your country is fighting for its existence, the same demand is made of you. The highwayman, however, is YOUR CONSCIENCE, and the two pistols are called HONOUR and SELF-RESPECT.

No "frightfulness" is needed, but the demand is insistent and you cannot escape it.

If, therefore, you have not already joined the War Savings Association, you should

FILL IN THE ATTACHED FORM

and

SET YOUR CONSCIENCE AT EASE.

UNION INSURANCE SOCIETY OF CANTON, LTD.,

Honorary Secretaries and Treasurers,

HONGKONG AND SOUTH CHINA WAR SAVINGS ASSOCIATION,

Queen's Building, Hongkong.

I enclose {Cheque
Notes to the value of \$.....
and shall be glad if you will enrol me as a member of the Hongkong and South China War Savings Association, by the rules of which I hereby agree to abide.

Signature.....

Address.....

THE WAL

(Continued from page 1)
Aerial Activities.

EARLIER CABLES. AIR RAID ON ENGLAND. TWO GERMAN MACHINES KILLED.

LONDON, August 23rd.
The Press Bureau announced that ten enemy aeroplanes approached Kent, near Ramsgate, at ten o'clock this morning. The Flying Corps and the Naval Air Service met and heavily engaged the raiders, preventing them from penetrating inland.

A small party of the raiders flew to Margate and turned homeward. The remainder skirted the coast, flying south to Dover.
Bombs were dropped on Der and Margate.
Three people were killed and two were injured.
There was slight damage.
Our anti-aircraft gunfire and aeroplanes brought down two of the raiders.

LATEST CABLES. "GOTHAS" CHASED OVERSEA.

LONDON, August 23rd.
The Admiralty reports:—Nazi aeroplanes attacked ten "Gothas" in the vicinity of Ramsgate at a height of 11,000 feet, and shot down one; in addition to the two already reported. They chased the remainder overseas.
One of our pilots fired 300 pounds of ammunition at one enemy machine, and both gunners appeared to have been killed, as they did not return to even at twenty yards.

AERIAL CONTESTS.
The Admiralty reports that three machines from Dunkirk incisively engaged twelve "Gothas" 35 miles northward of Newport and chased them to Zeebrugge.
Another patrol of ten machines engaged 25 enemy escorting scouts awaiting the raiders from England.

They drove down at least five completely uncontrollable. Accurate counting was impossible owing to the close fighting. All our machines returned.

LIST OF CASUALTIES.

LONDON, August 23rd.
An official report states:—The morning's raiders dropped bombs on Dover, Margate and Ramsgate.
Eleven were killed and thirteen injured at Dover and Ramsgate.
A number of houses and an hospital were damaged.
One enemy pilot was rescued lightly injured.

GERMAN VERSION.
A wireless German official report states:—Our aviators successfully bombed fortified towns on the English coast.

YORKSHIRE COAST VISITED.

LONDON, August 23rd.
The Press Bureau announces the enemy airships appeared over the Yorkshire coast last night.
One, which was attacked at the mouth of the Humber, dropped bombs, and then went seaward. Anti-aircraft guns opened fire.
There was only slight damage. One man was injured.

LATEST DETAILS.
Searchlights quickly picked up a Zeppelin last evening at an altitude of two miles and subjected her to a hot fire. One aerial torpedo made a hole in the road, but only a few bombs were dropped, these being mostly of the incendiary type. When the Zeppelin made off, our aeroplanes pursued her.

At Margate the raiders flew at a great altitude. Anti-aircraft guns immediately opened fire, and there was great excitement and cheering on the part of the big crowds when two huge "Gotha" machines were seen to fall headlong to the earth.

The air raid warning was given in London, and the people proceeded in a orderly manner to various refuge places according to official instructions. There was very little excitement, and no raiders appeared. Business was resumed in half an hour.

VENTURESOME RAIDER.
One or at most two of the airships which raided the Yorkshire Coast last night ventured overland. Twelve high explosive and thirteen incendiary bombs were dropped on three villages near the coast, wrecking a chapel and damaging several houses. One man was injured.

General.

LATEST CABLES.

BRITISH SHIPPING.

LONDON, August 23rd.
The Admiralty announce the arrivals for the week were 2,338; sailings, 2,764. Fifteen over and three under 1,600 tons were sunk, twelve vessels were unsuccessfully attacked, and two fishing boats were sunk.

FRENCH SHIPPING.

LONDON, August 23rd.
The French returns for the week ended 19th inst. are:—Arrivals, 1,049; departures, 1,012. Five over and four under 1,600 tons were sunk, and three were unsuccessfully attacked.

ITALIAN SHIPPING.

LONDON, August 23rd.
For the week ending the 19th inst. the Italian arrivals were 499, and the sailings 457. Two steamers and three sailing vessels were sunk. Two steamers and one sailing vessel were damaged but reached port, and two steamers were unsuccessfully attacked.

RUSSIA AND TREATIES.

A QUESTION OF CONSCIENCE AND HONOUR.
PETROGRAD, August 23rd.

M. Kerensky has made a statement in the Workmen's and Soldiers' Council organ that the Provisional Government considers its adhesion to the Treaties concluded with Great Britain and France a question of conscience and honour.

GOVERNMENT'S AIMS.

In view of the Government's attitude towards the Stockholm Conference the latter's decisions cannot modify its policy so far as concern the aforesaid treaties. The Conference is a Party affair, not Government. At the same time, the Government aims at facilitating holding the Conference with the Socialist parties participating.

NEW RUSSIAN COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.

PETROGRAD, August 23rd.
General Letchitsky, recently Commanding on the Russian Western Front, has been appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Northern Front.

AMERICA AND NEUTRALS' FOODSTUFFS.

WASHINGTON, August 23rd.
The Food Control Board is negotiating to divert foodstuffs consigned to neutrals held up in America to Belgium, where they are urgently needed.

SENATE ADOPTS WAR TAX AMENDMENT.

The Senate has adopted an amendment to the War Tax Bill greatly increasing the surtaxes on incomes over \$100,000. If the Bill becomes law, the incomes of the leading millionaires will be taxed 67 per cent.

EARLIER CABLES.

H.S. MAJESTY HONOURS MR GERARD.

LONDON, August 23rd.
The Daily Mail is responsible for the statement that His Majesty King George has conferred the Grand Cross of the Bath upon Mr. Gerard, late United States Ambassador to Berlin, in recognition of his services on behalf of the prisoners of war.

THE RAILWAY ENGINEERS' DISPUTE SETTLED.

LONDON, August 23rd.
The President of the Board of Trade met the Society of Railway Engineers and Firemen and settled their dispute on the basis that the Government pledged itself to a sympathetic consideration of a shorter working day immediately after the war, and the Railway Executive to curtail the present hours as far as is compatible with war conditions.

EASTERN EMPLOYMENT FOR DISABLED OFFICERS.

LONDON, August 23rd.
The Hon. E. S. Montagu, in his statement on the employment of disabled officers, stated that banks and firms having branches in the East, who were in a position to offer employment, would be invited to communicate with the India Office, when they would be placed in direct communication with approved applicants, with all the essential information regarding them. It was not anticipated, however, that many such candidates would be likely to be immediately available.

GERMANY AND THE POPE'S NOTE.

NOTE.

COPENHAGEN, August 22nd.
The Main Committee of the Reichstag has discussed the Pope's Note, which is generally welcomed by the party leaders. Dr. Michaelis delivered an important speech.

AMSTERDAM, August 22nd.
Dr. Michaelis referred to the Pope's Note and said he could not take up a definite and detailed position until he had arrived at an agreement with Germany's allies. He could only explain himself generally in two directions.

LATEST CABLES.

NOTE CORRESPONDS WITH GERMAN POLICY.

Dr. Michaelis denied that the Pope's proposal had been inspired by the Central Powers. He declared it was the spontaneous decision of the head of the Catholic Church.

The Chancellor, though assuming an attitude of reserve in regard to details, asserted that the Note corresponded with the position German policy had taken up since December 19th, 1916, namely, that Germany sympathetically regarded every attempt to inspire peace thoughts among the peoples. Germany particularly greeted the Pope's action, which the Pontiff had endeavoured to base on impartiality and justice. Regarding the answer to the Note, Germany was communicating with her Allies. Negotiations were not yet completed, and he would discuss the subject further when the answer was ready.

EARLIER CABLES.

PLAGUE ON A SHIP FROM INDIA.

LONDON, August 22nd.
It is officially announced that there were nine bubonic plague cases, with six deaths, from July 14th to July 28th, among the Indian crew of the steamer *Matania* from Bombay, which arrived at Gravesend on the 13th instant. Four of the sufferers were taken to hospital, and one died. All precautions have been taken.

A NEW TEA TRADE ORDER.

LONDON, August 22nd.
The Food Controller has ordered persons engaged in the purchase, sale or distribution of tea to make a return by September 10th of the tea in their possession or control on September 3rd, whether bonded or not. The order does not apply to persons who on September 10th own or control less than 500 lbs. or who merely hold tea for others.

THE NEW COMMERCIAL SCHEME.

LONDON, August 22nd.
The new scheme for a Commercial Intelligence Service, mentioned on the 17th instant, has not yet been published, but it is generally understood that it provides for a new and more efficient Commercial Intelligence Department in connection with the Foreign Office and the Board of Trade. The Commercial Committee of the House of Commons, to which Lord Robert Cecil privately explained the scheme yesterday, passed a resolution expressing the opinion that the scheme was a considerable advance in the direction desired by the industrial and commercial community. The Committee authorised a sub-committee to confer with the Chambers of Commerce and a federation of British Industries on the subject. In connection with the new scheme, the Civil Service Commissioners announced their intention to appoint additional Trade Commissioners to various parts of the Empire.

STOCKHOLM CONFERENCE GOVERNMENT'S POSITION.

LONDON, August 22nd.
Opinions differ as to the next move of Labour regarding the Stockholm Conference, but yesterday's vote is regarded as strengthening the hands of the Government in refusing passports. Moderates advise the abandonment of the idea of attending Stockholm, altogether, as the vote practically amounts to a reversal of the first decision, and the feeling of the country generally is hostile to the Conference. It is also pointed out that it is futile to talk of a peace conference while the armies are grappling in a death struggle, the result of which is more likely to promote peace than any Stockholm Conference. Mr. Hodge, in the course of an interview, expressed the opinion that the vote had killed the Stockholm Conference. The Government was to be congratulated on the fact which it had handled the railway dispute.

AUSTRIA'S FOOD QUESTION.

ZURICH, August 22nd.
The President of the Austrian Food Board has publicly admitted that Austria would be in a desperate plight but for the Roumanian supplies. The Hungarian early potatoes had failed, the fodder supplies were bad, and the oat harvest was very poor.

THE SILVER MARKET.

LONDON, August 22nd.
Silver is quoted at 44½d. (similar to yesterday), and the market is steady.

JUST A NUMBER.

"The hardest thing of all to get used to," said the Man from Overseas in a moment of expansion, "is being deprived of an identity—ceasing to be a person, an individuality—and becoming a mere number."

Noticing my perplexity, he went on to explain. Since he arrived in England he has been living in a flat in London. Let us call it 49, Chalmers-de-la-mansions. His complaint is that to all intents and purposes this has become his name, as who should say "Lochiel" or "The Mackintosh." His newspaper comes every morning with "49, Chalmers-de-la-mansions" neatly pencilled on its top right-hand corner. His monthly account from the newsagent bears the same inscription. Also he has overheard the milkman instructing his small boy assistant to "leave a pint for 49." The butcher, the baker, and the greengrocer with whom he has dealt for two years are still, he is convinced, not only unaware of his name, but also quite devoid of any curiosity on the subject.

"It hurts me," he said. "It strips me of my pride to be regarded as a mere number. Or if it has to be, I feel I'd like to be a number in a street—to have a whole house to myself—instead of being merely a number in a flat. Perhaps I am a snob, but—well, there's the feeling and I can't get away from it."

"Besides, I feel it for my wife too. I think it would cheer her up to hear her own name mentioned occasionally—even if it were only by the butcher's boy. But she never does."

With her the other day I invaded our grocer's shop to make inquiry about some goods which had failed to arrive. The proprietor was positive they had been sent. My wife was equally positive they had not arrived. The despatch clerk was finally appealed to.

"The goods I ordered yesterday have not arrived," said my wife, adding, in explanation, "Mrs. De Courcy Jones, you know."

"The despatch clerk looked blank until the resourceful proprietor dissolved his perplexity with brutal directness. 'She means,' he said in an indescribably pitying tone, '49, Chalmers-de-la-mansions.' The despatch clerk exhibited almost human intelligence for a moment as he turned up his book and announced that the goods had been sent out from the shop within the last half-hour."

"It is, however, the postman who annoys me most," continued the visitor from the Dominions. "The flat I occupy was formerly leased by a doctor, who now inhabits one directly overhead, with his name conspicuously displayed on a brass plate on the door. But some of his letters still come addressed to him at 49, my address, instead of his new number 61. All the 51s are delivered to him at that address, but all the letters addressed to him at 49 come to me."

"Several times I have explained the situation at great length and in meticulous detail to the postman who was greatly interested in the recital. On each occasion I gave him a batch of letters for the doctor which had been put in my box, with minute instructions to take them up the 36 stairs which separate our flats and drop them in the letter-box at 51: the flat with the brass plate on the door. But each time he has brought a new batch a day or two later and delivered them faithfully into my box."

"As sympathy seemed to be expected I gave it. 'But,' I said, 'that impersonal attitude is merely that of the tradesman. On the other hand, the Englishmen you have met—'

"Here," he said, "go slow! I haven't met any Englishmen. Didn't you hear me say I've only lived here for two years?" E.R.M., in the *Daily Mail*.

THE PRESS.

How he learned that "the King over all the Children of Pride is the Press" Kipling tells in the following lines at the end of a story in a recent publication:—

The Soldier may forget his sword,
The Sailorman the sea,
The Mason may forget the word
And the Priest his litany;
The maid may forget both jewel and gem,
And the bride her wedding dress—
But the Jew shall forget Jerusalem
Ere we forget the Press!

Who once hath stood through the loaded hour
Ere, roaring like the gale,
The Harill and the Eoe pour
Their league-long paper bale
And has his pipe in the morning calm
That follows the midnight stress—
He hath sold his heart to the old Black Art.
We call the daily Press.

Who once hath dealt in the widest game
That all of a man can play,
No later love, no larger fame
Will lure him long away.
As the war-horse sweeth the battle afar,
The Entered Soul, no less,
He hath sold his heart to the old Black Art.
We call the daily Press.

Canst thou number the days that we
fulfil,
Or the Times that we bring forth?
Canst thou send the lightning to do thy
will,
And cause them reign on earth?
Hast thou given a peacock goodly wings
To please his foolishness?
Set down at the hearth of men and things,
Companion of the Press?

The Pone may launch his Interdict,
The Union its decree,
But the bubble is blown and the bubble is
pricked
By Us and such as We.
Remember the battle and stand aside
While Thrones and Powers confess
That King over all the Children of Pride
Is the Press—the Press—the Press!

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CHINA NAVIGATION CO., LTD.

SAILINGS SUBJECT TO ALTERATION.

FOR	STEAMERS	TO SAIL
HONGKONG, PAKHOI and HAIPHONG	"KAIFONG"	On 26th Aug. 7 P.M.
SHANGHAI	"YINGHONG"	On 28th Aug. 7 P.M.
WEIHAIWEI and TIENTSIN	"KUEIHONG"	On 29th Aug. Noon.
SHANGHAI	"CHENAN"	On 29th Aug. 4 P.M.
SHANGHAI	"SINKING"	On 30th Aug. 4 P.M.

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STEAMERS	Leave Hong Kong about	Leave Suez about	Due at Marseilles if sailing about	Due at London about
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Consignees are reminded of the necessity to apply to the Company's Agents regarding arrival of consignments expected of which they have received documents or advice.
Any damaged packages must be left in the Godowns for examination by the Consignees, and the Company's Surveyors, Messrs. GODDARD & DOUGLAS, at 10 A.M. on MONDAYS and THURSDAYS. All Claims must be presented within ten days of the Steamer's arrival here, after which date they cannot be recognized. No Claims will be admitted after the goods have left the Godowns.
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E. V. D. FARR,
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via KEELUNG, SHANGHAI { Capt. Shinobe 12,500 Aug., at Noon.
MOJI, KOBE, YOKKAICHI { SHIDZUKA MARU (WEDNESDAY, 12th
SHIMIDZU and YOKOHAMA { Capt. Noma 12,500 Sept., at Noon.

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NIAGASAKI (Kobe) and { NIKKO MARU (FRIDAY, 14th
YOKOHAMA { Capt. Takeda 9,500 Sept., at 11 A.M.

BENTEN MARU (WEDNESDAY, 29th
Capt. Yamamoto 8,000 Aug.

SHANGHAI, KOBE, and { KITANO MARU (SUNDAY, 2nd
Capt. Cope 16,000 Sept., at 11 A.M.

YOKOHAMA, { HIRANO MARU (SATURDAY, 16th
Capt. Fraser 16,000 Sept., at 11 A.M.

YOKOHAMA, { FUSHIMI MARU (SATURDAY, 15th
Capt. Iriawa 21,000 Sept., at 11 A.M.

ASAKI MARU (SATURDAY, 25th
Capt. Kozaka 8,000 Aug.

YOKOHAMA, { PENANG MARU (SATURDAY, 1st
Capt. Kishibiki 10,000 Sept.

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KOBEA MARU	18,000	FRI., 6th Apr.
SIBERIA MARU	18,000	MON., 15th Oct.
TENYO MARU	22,000	FRI., 26th Oct.

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